BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS

Ministry of Management Services

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gems6.gov.bc.ca

Issue: 03-02

January 10, 2003

- **BC's unemployment rate drops in December**
- **The value of building permits falls after record highs in October**
- **Research and development funding from all sources increased in 2000**

Labour Force

- **British Columbia's unemployment rate dropped back to 8.3% (seasonally adjusted) in December.** The decline in the jobless rate occurred because 7,000 (-0.3%) left the labour force while the number of jobs in the province only fell by 3,100 (-0.2%).

  Higher employment in the goods sector (+0.8%) was more than offset by lower service sector employment (-0.4%). On the goods side, the new jobs were concentrated in agriculture (+10.1%) and utilities (+5.7%). Employment in construction continued to fall (-0.2%) and the manufacturing industry pared down its work force (-1.0%) after expanding in the previous month.

  In the service sector, the trend was generally down, with some exceptions. The number of people with jobs in transportation and warehousing (+3.1%), management & administrative services (+1.9%), and education services (+2.1%) grew. However, this was more than offset by drops in accommodation & food services (-4.3%), information, culture & recreation (-3.5%), professional, scientific & technical (-1.2%) and other service industries.

  The number of part-time jobs (+3.6%) increased substantially while full-time employment (-1.3%) fell. Employment was up in both the private (+0.5%) and public (+0.2%) sectors, but there were less self-employed workers (-2.7%). Men (-0.6%) experienced job loss for the third month in a row while women saw an increase in jobs (+0.4%) in December. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Canada's unemployment rate stayed constant in December at 7.5%, as employment growth (+0.4%) matched an increase in the size of the labour force (+0.4%).** Manitoba (5.0%) had the lowest unemployment rate in the country, with similar rates in the other prairie provinces (5.1% in Alberta and 5.6% in Saskatchewan). Newfoundland and Labrador maintained the highest unemployment rate (18.5%) during December.

  Source: Statistics Canada

- **Unemployment rates were substantially higher in the more rural areas of the province than in the urban centres.** Lower Mainland/Southwest (7.6%, three-month moving average) and Vancouver Island/Coast (7.7%) had the lowest jobless rates. Three of the seven regions for which unemployment rates in the province are calculated had double-digit jobless rates in December. The three-month-moving average in these regions ranged from 11.6% in Northeast to 11.9% in North Coast/Nechako.

  Source: Statistics Canada

Annual Labour Force Data

- **Employment in the province grew 1.6% during 2002, after falling 0.3% the year before.** An average of 1.973 million British Columbians had jobs last year, up from 1.942 million in 2001. Employment increased in both the goods (+1.8%) and service (+1.6%) sectors. Strong growth in the construction (+5.1%) industry, as well as agriculture (+15.9%) led the growth in the goods sector. Employment in the wood products industry was down 9.8%, likely due to layoffs caused by US tariffs. On the service side, increased employment in trade (+9.3%) and health care (+13.8%) were the main factors for the increase. Provincial government cutbacks resulted in a 20% drop in its workforce.

  Source: Statistics Canada

Report Municipal Population Estimates - 2002

Did you know....

Funding for research and development has almost doubled in BC over the past decade

The Economy

- **The value of building permits issued by BC municipalities dropped 10.1% (seasonally adjusted) in November as planned spending on both residential (-12.0%) and non-residential (-5.4%) projects levelled off.** This decline has to be put in perspective however as October saw record highs. Despite the province-wide downturn, building plans in the capital city continued to boom. Permits in Victoria were up 8.3%, while Vancouver (-9.4%) saw a decline. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The cost of new housing in BC's biggest cities continued to climb in November.** The New Housing Price Index was up 1.9%, year-over-year, in Vancouver and rose 5.6% in Victoria. A healthy demand for new housing in conjunction with increased costs to builders pushed prices up nationally. Edmonton (+9.3%) led the way with the largest 12-month increase for new homes. Ottawa-Gatineau (+8.8%) and Montreal (+8.3%) also saw price increases. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **There were fewer jobs advertised in British Columbia newspapers as the help-wanted index dropped 0.9% (seasonally adjusted) in December.** Ontario's index (-3.1%) fell for the sixth straight month. Newfoundland and Labrador (-4.1%) and Quebec (-3.3%) fared the worst. New Brunswick (+3.7%) was the only province to see an increase in the index.
Source: Statistics Canada

Motor Vehicle Theft

- **The rate of motor vehicle theft in British Columbia jumped 12.5% in 2001.** There were 812 vehicle thefts per 100,000 population in BC. Only Manitoba (1,148) had a higher theft rate in 2001. Newfoundland and Labrador had the lowest rate (119), far below the national average (548).

  British Columbia has the lowest clearance rate (rate at which thefts were "solved" by police) of all provinces and territories. Only 6.0% of all vehicle thefts in BC during 2001 were solved. Northwest Territories was the most successful at solving vehicle theft crimes (29.1%). The national average was 12.2%.

  While cars remain the most commonly stolen vehicle, the rate of truck, including sport utility vehicles, theft is growing quickly, with an increase of 59% over the past decade.
Source: SC, 85-002-XPE Vol. 23 no. 1

- **The rate of thefts from motor vehicles increased slightly (+1.3%) across Canada in 2001.** British Columbia again had the highest rate (at 1,968 thefts from vehicles per 100,000 population), while New Brunswick had the lowest rate in the nation (313). Compared to a decade ago, thefts from motor vehicles have decreased substantially (-37%), probably due to the increasing sophistication of anti-theft devices. The item most likely to be stolen from a motor vehicle was audio equipment. About 20% of all thefts involved audio equipment, while clothing & luggage (14%) was the next most likely to be stolen.
Source: SC, 85-002-XPE Vol. 23 no. 1

Farm Prices

- **The price BC farmers received for their agricultural commodities decreased 6.7% in October (year-over-year).** The Farm Product Price Index (FPPI) fell to 97.4 (1997=100), the lowest of the provinces. Prices of crops (-7.4%), and livestock and animal products (-6.3%) contributed to October's overall decline. Nationally, prices increased (+0.5%) due to growth in crop prices (+4.4%) more than offsetting a drop in livestock and animal products (-3.4%). *Source: Statistics Canada*

Research & Development

- **Total funding for research and development in BC grew 16.9% to $1,500 million in 2000.** Funding from the federal government increased 10.5% while funding from the provincial government grew 8.3%. The largest proportional increase was from the higher education sector, which increased its contributions by 54.5% to $51 million.
Source: SC, 88F0006XIE2002015

Infoline *Issue: 03-02*
January 10, 2003

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Infoline Report

Issue: 03-02
Jan. 10, 2003

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Municipal Population Estimates—2002

The Province

British Columbia's population grew by 1.0% between 2001 and 2002. This represented an increase of 39,693 persons from 4,101,579 on July 1, 2001 to 4,141,272 on July 1, 2002. The total population of Canada also grew by 1.0% over the same period. As in the previous year, B.C.'s population growth in the 2001–2002 period was again ranked third after Alberta (1.8%) and Ontario (1.5%).

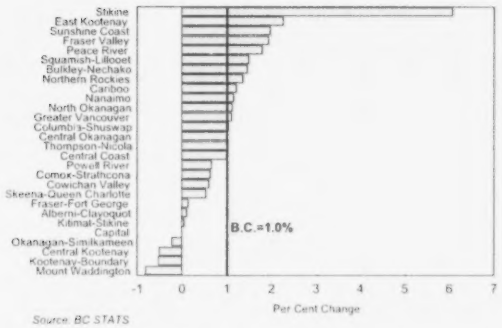
A majority of the province's population growth has been the result of a strong inflow of immigrants from other countries. Over the period 2001–2002, B.C. gained a total of 35,368 persons through net international migration. The second contributor of population growth was the net gain of 11,319 persons through natural increase (births less deaths). Offsetting this growth was a net loss in population due to interprovincial migration. During that period, B.C. had a net loss of population to Alberta and Ontario.

Regional Districts

Twenty-three of the total 28 regional districts showed positive population growth between 2001 and 2002. Five regional districts, namely Capital, Okanagan-Similkameen, Central Kootenay, Kootenay-Boundary and Mount Waddington, had population declines. However, the total population decrease in these five districts was minimal. Collectively, only 752 fewer people were living in these five districts when compared to the previous year.

Of the 23 districts that had population growth, 16 showed a growth stronger than the provincial average of 1%. Greater Vancouver, home of more than half the province's population, showed a growth of 1.1% or 23,234 persons. This represented the largest increase in the number of people among all regional districts. On the other hand, while Stikine showed the highest growth in percentage terms, it only gained 84 persons over the period as it has a much smaller population base.

Population Growth by Regional District
2001-2002



Source: BC STATS

Regional Districts	% Growth	Population Growth	2002 Population
Greater Vancouver	1.1	23,234	2,114,314
Fraser Valley	1.9	4,809	253,844
Central Okanagan	1.0	1,593	156,033
Nanaimo	1.2	1,532	133,988
Thompson-Nicola	1.0	1,282	126,173
Comox-Strathcona	0.6	637	101,038
Fraser-Fort George	0.1	142	100,366
North Okanagan	1.1	855	77,268
Cowichan Valley	0.6	448	75,525
Cariboo	1.2	830	69,558
East Kootenay	2.3	1,331	60,234
Peace River	1.8	1,040	58,997
Columbia-Shuswap	1.0	521	50,826
Bulkley-Nechako	1.5	623	43,513
Kitimat-Stikine	0.0	20	42,914
Squamish-Lillooet	1.5	523	35,565
Alberni-Clayoquot	0.1	35	31,753
Sunshine Coast	2.0	524	27,110
Skeena-Queen Charlotte	0.5	124	22,912
Powell River	0.7	136	20,781
Northern Rockies	1.4	82	6,131
Central Coast	1.0	40	4,013
Stikine	6.1	84	1,467

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Municipalities

There are a total of 154 municipalities for which population was estimated. In the period 2001-2002, 99 municipalities showed population increases. The smallest municipality was Silverton with 229 people and the largest was City of Vancouver with 577,772 people. There were 73 municipalities with a population of 5,000 or more people. Of those, View Royal showed the strongest growth in percentage terms with a rate of 3.9% (or 295 people) while Surrey showed the strongest growth in terms of population with an increase of 11,234 persons (or 3.4%).

Top 10 Municipalities by Population

	% Change	Population Change	2002 Population
Vancouver	0.1%	516	577,772
Surrey	3.1%	11,234	376,757
Burnaby	0.8%	1,548	205,955
Richmond	1.2%	2,070	174,617
Abbotsford	2.7%	3,328	124,591
Coquitlam	2.0%	2,346	120,967
Saanich	-0.4%	-459	108,084
Kelowna	0.8%	760	101,592
Delta	-0.3%	-289	101,226
Langley Township	0.0%	8	90,997

The top ten municipalities made up almost half of the province's population. The largest municipality, City of Vancouver, while showing small growth during 2001-2002, represented about 14% of the B.C. population. Many municipalities in the Greater Vancouver areas—such as Surrey, Burnaby, Richmond and Coquitlam—continued to show strong growth in 2002. These so called "bedroom cities" for the GVRD have been growing relatively faster than the City of Vancouver as the potential for housing development in Vancouver has diminished over the years.

Saanich and Victoria, both on Vancouver Island, were the two municipalities that lost the most population over the period. In fact, many other municipalities on the island have experienced small population losses during the period, including Oak Bay, Sidney, Esquimalt and Port Alberni. On the Mainland, North Vancouver DM, West Vancouver and Delta were among the five municipalities that lost the most population. However, the population decreases were relatively small in all these cities.

5 Largest Population Decreases

	% Change	Population Change	2002 Population
Saanich	-0.4%	-459	108,084
Victoria	-0.6%	-448	77,941
North Vancouver DM	-0.4%	-364	85,720
Delta	-0.3%	-289	101,226
West Vancouver	-0.6%	-255	42,778

Municipal estimates are calculated by the Population Section of BC Stats through a regional estimation model that has been developed and refined over the past 20 years. This model, which uses indicators such as residential electrical connections and telephone line location information, has enabled BC Stats to produce relatively accurate population estimates without the high cost of conducting a census.

Knowledge of population growth and where it occurs are vital to the planning process. For this reason the Municipal and Regional District Estimates are an important tool for the provincial and local governments in assessing current and future community needs.

The population estimates for 1996 to 2002 (as well as the estimates for 1976-1995) are available on the BC Stats web site:

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS

Ministry of Management Services

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BC STATS Municipal & Regional District Population Estimates

Name	Area Type	Estimate 2001††	Estimate 2002	2001-02 % Chg.
Alberni-Clayoquot		**31,718**	**31,753**	**0.1**
Port Alberni	C	18,535	18,465	-0.4
Tofino	DM	1,555	1,549	-0.4
Ucluelet	DM	1,640	1,646	0.4
Bulkley-Nechako		**42,890**	**43,513**	**1.5**
Burns Lake	VL	2,044	2,063	0.9
Fort St. James	DM	2,032	2,038	0.3
Fraser Lake	VL	1,333	1,364	2.3
Granisle	VL	364	371	1.9
Houston	DM	3,764	3,738	-0.7
Smithers	T	5,690	5,710	0.4
Telkwa	VL	1,441	1,444	0.2
Vanderhoof	DM	4,617	4,603	-0.3
Capital		**341,564**	**341,563**	**0.0**
Central Saanich	DM	15,993	15,995	0.0
Colwood	C	14,410	14,534	0.9
Esquimalt	DM	16,984	16,903	-0.5
Highlands	DM	1,754	1,767	0.7
Langford	DM	19,796	20,117	1.6
Metchosin	DM	5,083	5,134	1.0
North Saanich	DM	10,824	10,824	0.0
Oak Bay	DM	18,506	18,360	-0.8
Saanich	DM	108,543	108,084	-0.4
Sidney	T	11,362	11,281	-0.7
Sooke	DM	9,140	9,255	1.3
Victoria	C	78,389	77,941	-0.6
View Royal	T	7,619	7,914	3.9
Cariboo		**68,728**	**69,558**	**1.2**
Quesnel	C	10,526	10,591	0.6
Wells	DM	245	259	5.7
Williams Lake	C	11,716	11,730	0.1
100 Mile House	DM	1,814	1,843	1.6
Central Coast		**3,973**	**4,013**	**1.0**
Central Kootenay		**59,540**	**59,245**	**-0.5**
Castlegar	C	7,328	7,248	-1.1
Creston	T	4,985	4,908	-1.5
Kaslo	VL	1,074	1,041	-3.1
Nakusp	VL	1,774	1,786	0.7
Nelson	C	9,746	9,571	-1.8
New Denver	VL	560	559	-0.2
Salmo	VL	1,169	1,162	-0.6
Silverton	VL	231	229	-0.9
Slocan	VL	350	349	-0.3
Central Okanagan		**154,440**	**156,033**	**1.0**
Kelowna	C	100,832	101,592	0.8
Lake Country	DM	9,671	9,750	0.8
Peachland	DM	4,823	4,987	3.4
Columbia-Shuswap		**50,305**	**50,826**	**1.0**
Golden	T	4,231	4,341	2.6
Revelstoke	C	7,854	7,945	1.2
Salmon Arm	DM	15,847	15,911	0.4
Sicamous	DM	2,828	2,906	2.8

Name	Area Type	Estimate 2001††	Estimate 2002	2001-02 % Chg.
Comox-Strathcona		**100,401**	**101,038**	**0.6**
Campbell River	DM	29,802	29,718	-0.3
Comox	T	11,632	11,809	1.5
Courtenay	C*	19,160	19,435	1.4
Cumberland	VL	2,739	2,718	-0.8
Gold River	VL	1,421	1,391	-2.1
Sayward	VL	394	405	2.8
Tahsis	VL	627	597	-4.8
Zeballos	VL	235	230	-2.1
Cowichan Valley		**75,077**	**75,525**	**0.6**
Duncan	C	4,909	4,810	-2.0
Ladysmith	T	6,871	7,073	2.9
Lake Cowichan	T	2,951	2,976	0.8
North Cowichan	DM	27,276	27,457	0.7
East Kootenay		**58,903**	**60,234**	**2.3**
Cranbrook	C	19,352	19,653	1.6
Elkford	DM	2,708	2,735	1.0
Fernie	C	4,846	4,914	1.4
Invermere	DM	2,989	3,030	1.4
Kimberley	C	6,767	6,862	1.4
Radium Hot Springs	VL	610	649	6.4
Sparwood	DM	3,996	4,137	3.5
Fraser Valley		**249,035**	**253,844**	**1.9**
Abbotsford	C	121,263	124,591	2.7
Chilliwack	C	65,850	66,611	1.2
Harrison Hot Springs	VL	1,399	1,513	8.1
Hope	DM	6,443	6,521	1.2
Kent	DM	5,170	5,265	1.8
Mission	DM	32,793	32,907	0.3
Fraser-Fort George		**100,224**	**100,366**	**0.1**
Mackenzie	DM	5,489	5,538	0.9
McBride	VL	747	736	-1.5
Prince George	C	76,197	76,008	-0.2
Valemount	VL	1,252	1,271	1.5
Greater Vancouver		**2,091,080**	**2,114,314**	**1.1**
Anmore	VL	1,409	1,426	1.2
Belcarra	VL	712	716	0.6
Bowen Island	IM	3,076	3,158	2.7
Burnaby	C	204,407	205,955	0.8
Coquitlam	C	118,621	120,967	2.0
Delta	DM	101,515	101,226	-0.3
Langley	C	24,885	24,682	-0.8
Langley	DM	90,989	90,997	0.0
Lions Bay	VL	1,439	1,425	-1.0
Maple Ridge	DM	66,269	68,527	3.4
New Westminster	C	57,713	57,603	-0.2
North Vancouver	C	46,756	47,893	2.4
North Vancouver	DM	86,084	85,720	-0.4
Pitt Meadows	DM	15,392	15,755	2.4
Port Coquitlam	C	53,941	55,793	3.4
Port Moody	C	25,047	25,545	2.0
Richmond	C	172,547	174,617	1.2
Surrey	C	365,523	376,757	3.1
Vancouver	C	577,256	577,772	0.1
West Vancouver	DM	43,033	42,778	-0.6
White Rock	C	19,049	19,408	1.9

BC STATS Municipal & Regional District Population Estimates

Name	Area Type	Estimate 2001††	Estimate 2002	2001-02 % Chg.
Kitimat-Stikine		**42,894**	**42,914**	**0.0**
Hazelton	VL	362	361	-0.3
Kitimat	DM	10,771	10,851	0.7
New Hazelton	DM	787	801	1.8
Stewart	DM	695	693	-0.3
Terrace	C	12,711	12,568	-1.1
Kootenay-Boundary		**33,184**	**33,013**	**-0.5**
Fruitvale	VL	2,109	2,052	-2.7
Grand Forks	C	4,222	4,099	-2.9
Greenwood	C	693	677	-2.3
Midway	VL	664	647	-2.6
Montrose	VL	1,111	1,097	-1.3
Rossland	C*	3,820	3,739	-2.1
Trail	C	7,884	8,060	2.2
Warfield	VL	1,817	1,815	-0.1
Mount Waddington		**13,768**	**13,656**	**-0.8**
Alert Bay	VL	610	638	4.6
Port Alice	VL	1,179	1,199	1.7
Port Hardy	DM	4,817	4,804	-0.3
Port McNeill	T	2,967	2,904	-2.1
Nanaimo		**132,456**	**133,988**	**1.2**
Nanaimo	C	76,383	76,787	0.5
Parksville	C	10,713	10,763	0.5
Qualicum Beach	T *	7,125	7,151	0.4
North Okanagan		**76,413**	**77,268**	**1.1**
Armstrong	C	4,439	4,592	3.4
Coldstream	DM	9,483	9,564	0.9
Enderby	C	2,933	2,957	0.8
Lumby	VL	1,689	1,722	2.0
Spallumcheen	DM	5,350	5,377	0.5
Vernon	C*	34,998	35,147	0.4
Northern Rockies		**6,049**	**6,131**	**1.4**
Fort Nelson	T	4,438	4,503	1.5
Okanagan-Similkameen		**79,645**	**79,472**	**-0.2**
Keremeos	VL	1,236	1,264	2.3
Oliver	T*	4,381	4,357	-0.5
Osoyoos	T	4,437	4,399	-0.9
Penticton	C	32,294	32,202	-0.3
Princeton	T	2,712	2,692	-0.7
Summerland	DM	11,116	11,044	-0.6
Peace River		**57,957**	**58,997**	**1.8**
Chetwynd	DM	2,737	2,795	2.1
Dawson Creek	C	11,305	11,409	0.9
Fort St. John	C*	16,995	17,117	0.7
Hudson's Hope	DM	1,084	1,135	4.7
Pouce Coupe	VL	875	865	-1.1
Taylor	DM	1,205	1,252	3.9
Tumbler Ridge	DM	1,931	2,243	16.2
Powell River		**20,645**	**20,781**	**0.7**
Powell River	DM	13,543	13,581	0.3
Sechelt Ind Gov Dist	IGD**	36	36	0.0
Skeena-Queen Charlotte		**22,788**	**22,912**	**0.5**
Masset	VL	975	1,006	3.2
Port Clements	VL	542	536	-1.1
Port Edward	DM	694	686	-1.2
Prince Rupert	C	15,376	15,420	0.3
Squamish-Lillooet		**35,042**	**35,565**	**1.5**
Lillooet	DM	2,874	2,820	-1.9
Pemberton	VL	1,752	1,891	7.9
Squamish	DM	14,973	14,927	-0.3
Whistler	DM	9,590	9,739	1.6
Stikine		**1,383**	**1,467**	**6.1**
Sunshine Coast		**26,586**	**27,110**	**2.0**
Gibsons	T	4,066	4,094	0.7
Sechelt	DM	8,081	8,251	2.1
Sechelt Ind Gov Dist	IGD**	841	850	1.1
Thompson-Nicola		**124,891**	**126,173**	**1.0**
Ashcroft	VL	1,854	1,875	1.1
Cache Creek	VL	1,096	1,123	2.5
Chase	VL	2,553	2,548	-0.2
Clinton	VL*	646	661	2.3
Kamloops	C	81,053	81,443	0.5
Logan Lake	DM	2,263	2,331	3.0
Lytton	VL	336	353	5.1
Merritt	C	7,416	7,549	1.8
British Columbia		**4,101,579**	**4,141,272**	**1.0**

Source:
Population Section, BC Stats,
Ministry of Management Services,
Government of British Columbia.

Notes:
All figures correspond to municipal boundaries as of July 1st of the year stated.
All figures are as of July 1st of the year stated.

C = City, T = Town, VL = Village, DM = District Municipality,
IM = Island Municipality, IGD = Indian Government District,
DR = Development Region.

* *Denotes a boundary change between 2001 and 2002.*

** *Sechelt Indian Government District is split between Sunshine Coast and Powell River Regional Districts.*

†† *2001 Census year figures include a PRELIMINARY estimate of net census undercount*

British Columbia Development Region	Area Type	Estimate 2001††	Estimate 2002	2001-02 % Chg.
Vancouver Island/Coast	DR	719,602	722,317	0.4
Mainland/Southwest	DR	2,401,743	2,430,833	1.2
Thompson-Okanagan	DR	485,694	489,772	0.8
Kootenay	DR	151,627	152,492	0.6
Cariboo	DR	168,952	169,924	0.6
North Coast	DR	65,682	65,826	0.2
Nechako	DR	44,273	44,980	1.6
Northeast	DR	64,006	65,128	1.8
British Columbia		**4,101,579**	**4,141,272**	**1.0**

Infoline

January 10, 2003

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also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jul 1/02	% change on one year ago
BC	4,141.3	1.0
Canada	31,414.0	1.0
GDP and INCOME		
(BC - at market prices)	2001 Revised	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	130,859	1.2
GDP *($ 1997 millions)*	123,912	-0.2
GDP *($ 1997 per Capita)*	30,252	-1.1
Personal Disposable Income *($ 1997 per Capita)*	19,513	1.2
TRADE ($ millions)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) Oct	2,936	2.2
Merchandise Exports (seas. adjusted) Oct	2,550	2.9
Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Oct	3,394	1.6
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		12-month avg
(all items - 1992=100)	Nov '02	% change
BC	118.9	2.1
Canada	120.8	2.0
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Dec '02	prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,176	-0.3
Employed - BC	1,994	-0.2
Unemployed - BC	182	-2.2
		Nov '02
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	8.3	8.5
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.5	7.5
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jan 8/03	Jan 9/02
Prime Business Rate	4.50	4.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	4.90	4.60
- 5 year	6.70	6.85
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jan 8/03	Jan 9/02
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.5613	1.5962
US $ *(reciprocal of the closing rate)*	0.6404	0.6263
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Dec '02	one year ago
BC	676.45	5.1
Canada	651.35	1.6

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Released this week by BC STATS

- Small Business Quarterly, 3rd Quarter 2002

Next week

- Labour Force Statistics, December 2002

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